

Serial No. 09/856,861
Art Unit: 1751

REMARKS

The pending claims are 18-20, 22, 24-31, and 33. Claims 21 and 23 have been canceled and their substance added to claim 18, adding no new matter to the application. Claim 32 has been canceled as well. For the reasons below, it is believed the claims as amended are in condition for allowance.

Claims 21 and 33 were objected to as ungrammatical, and it was suggested applicants amend the phrase "and/or aromatic" to "and/or aromatic groups." Applicants respectfully decline. Initially, the objection to claim 21 is now moot in view of that claim being canceled. Moreover, the objection should not be applied to claim 18 as amended, which now contains the allegedly objectionable phrase.

As used in current claims 18 and 33, "aromatic" is the first of two adjectival modifiers of the noun "radicals" separated by a comma, the other being the adjective phrase "optionally C₁₋₁₈-alkyl-substituted hydrocarbon." Thus, the complete phrase "aromatic, optionally C₁₋₁₈-alkyl-substituted hydrocarbon radicals" is perfectly grammatical and does not require the changes suggested by the Examiner. Indeed, adding the word "group" where suggested would only confuse and not clarify the meaning of the whole phrase. Applicants therefore respectfully ask that this objection not be maintained against the claims.

Claim 32 was objected to as duplicative of claim 31. This objection is moot in view of applicants' cancellation of claim 32.

Claim 33 was objected to as indefinite for use of the modifier "about." The offending word has been stricken from the claim, and

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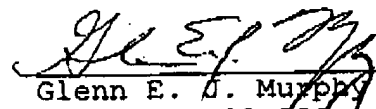
the rejection it drew no longer should be maintained. Claim 33, being otherwise free of the prior art, is now believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 21 and 23 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. The limitations of claims 21 and 23 have been incorporated in alternative form into claim 18, rendering that claim and all claims depending from it (i.e., all other claims pending other than claim 33) allowable. Thus it is believed all pending claims 18-20, 22, 24-31, and 33 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks above, applicants ask for reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims. Applicants further ask for extension of the period for response three months to December 9, 2003 and authorize a charge to Deposit Account No. 01-1250 in the amount of \$950.00 for the extension fee. Order No. 03-548. Should any fees be due for entry and consideration of this Amendment that have not been accounted for, the Commissioner is authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 01-1250.

Respectfully submitted,


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